

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01

PRS-01 /104 W

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R 301506Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1229

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3944

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: TOP GOVERNMENT ENERGY OFFICIALS ACCEPT FISHING TRIP  
HOSPITALITY FROM PANARCTIC OILS LTD.

1. SEPT 29 TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL CARRIED FRONT-PAGE STORY REPORTING THAT FOUR TOP GOVERNMENT ENERGY FIGURES HAD BEEN GUESTS OF PANARCTIC OILS LTD. ON AUGUST HIGH ARCTIC FISHING VISIT. THE FOUR WERE ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES (EMR) MINISTER ALASTAIR GILLESPIE; EMR DEPT MIN G. M. MCNABB; NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD (NEB) CHAIRMAN MARSHALL CROWE; AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER C. M. (BUD) DRURY. STORY NOTED THAT PANARCTIC WOULD BE PART OF CONSORTIUM LIKELY TO APPLY NEXT YEAR FOR PERMISSION OF NEB AND CABINET TO BUILD 2,200 MILE PIPELINE FROM ARCTIC ISLANDS TO SOUTHERN CANADA.

2. PARTICIPANTS QUOTED AS NOT DENYING THAT TRIP HAD TAKEN PLACE OR THAT PANARCTIC HAD PAID THE WAY. MAIN JUSTIFICATION GIVEN WAS THAT FISHING VENTURE MERELY PART OF LARGER BUSINESS TOUR OF  
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THE NORTH.

3. EXPECTED OPPOSITION AND COLUMNIST OUTRAGE  
APPEARED IN PRESS FOLLOWING DAY. GIST OF  
CRITICISM WAS THAT TRIP REVEALED SERIOUS LACK  
OF GOOD JUDGMENT ON PART OF THE FOUR GOVERNMENT  
FIGURES.

4. COMMENT: IN EMBASSY VIEW, THIS INCIDENT IS  
NOTEWORTH FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, IT IS SAFE  
TO ASSUME THAT FORCES OPPOSED TO THE PIPELINE WILL  
QUESTION MARSHALL CROWE'S CAPACITY TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF  
FUTURE NEB HEARINGS INVOLVING PANARCTIC INTERESTS. IT IS  
CONCEIVABLE, FURTHER THAT CROWE MIGHT BE DISQUALIFIED  
AS HE WAS EARLIER IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE HEARINGS (SEE OTTAWA 1021).

SECOND, THE INCIDENT DOES HAVE POTENTIAL POLITICAL  
RAMIFICATIONS. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS LIBERAL MINI-  
SCANDAL WILL GO THE WAY OF ITS SEVERAL  
PREDECESSORS OF THE PAST YEAR AND BLOW OVER WITHIN  
A FEW DAYS. BUT THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS HOW  
MUCH THIS REGISTERS WITH THE CANADIAN VOTER AS ONE  
IN A CHAIN OF ACTS OF LIBERAL GOVERNMENT HIGH-  
HANDEDNESS. WE ASSUME THAT, AT THE LEAST, LIBERAL  
POLITICAL OPERATORS, WHO ARE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER  
A LIBERAL OFFENSIVE, WISH THAT GILLESPIE, DRURY,  
CROWE AND MCNABB HAD NOT TAKEN THE GOVERNMENT'S  
AUSTERITY PROGRAM TO THIS EXTREME.  
ENDERS

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